

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme comprising:

defining a sidebar of a user interface;

requesting an application appear in a sidebar when minimized, said application having a taskbar associated therewith; and

minimizing the application upon receiving a minimize command to a rich minimized application (RMA), said minimizing including hiding the taskbar application button associated with the application, said RMA comprising a restore option allowing the user to restore the application, said minimizing comprising:[:;:]

~~revealing a tile in the sidebar to represent the minimized application in response to the minimize command and the request RMA,~~

wherein the sidebar configured to display a plurality of tiles corresponding to a plurality of applications RMAs,

wherein revealing the tile includes displaying a sub-set of live-data provided by the application when not minimized to the RMA and the a sub-set of interactive application features provided by the application when not minimized to the RMA in the tile,

wherein the sub-set of interactive applications features do not include features related to sizing or re-sizing of the tile, and

wherein the sub-set of interactive application features are selected by the application and the sub-set of interactive application features are determined to be useful by the application when minimized; and

~~persisting the revealed tile in the sidebar when the user logs off the computing system wherein the revealed tile remains in the sidebar upon the next login of the user.~~

Claim 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing, in the tile, access to additional features not available in the application.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing access to the sub-set of application features through a fly-out menu accessible through the tile.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an available features selection module for allowing selection of the one or more interactive features available through the tile.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a user to determine a size of the tile.

Claim 13 (original): A computer storage medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme through the use of a sidebar, comprising:

requesting an application appear in a sidebar when minimized; and

moving an application to the sidebar upon receipt of a user command to minimize the application based on the request to a rich minimized application (RMA), said minimizing including hiding a taskbar application button associated with the application, said RMA comprising a restore option allowing the user to restore the application, said minimizing comprising: ; and

displaying at least a sub-set of interactive features belonging to the application when not minimized in the minimized application in the sidebar to the RMA, wherein the sub-set of interactive applications features do not include features related to sizing or re-sizing of the tile, wherein the sub-set of interactive application features are selected by the application and the sub-set of interactive application features are determined to be useful by the application when minimized to the RMA; and

persisting the display of the at least a sub-set of the interactive features in the sidebar when the user logs off the computing system wherein the display of the at least a sub-set of the interactive features remains in the sidebar upon the next login of the user.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising providing access to additional features not available in the application.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising inserting a tile in the sidebar for providing access to the application.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising providing access to the sub-set of application features through a fly-out menu accessible through the tile.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising providing the user with a restore button accessible through the tile to allow the user to maximize the application.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising providing an available features selection module for allowing selection of the at least a sub-set of interactive features available through the tile.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising allowing the user to determine a size of the tile.

Claim 24 (original): A computer storage medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 12.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A system for providing user access to a variety of informational items, the system comprising:

 a processor associated with a computer for generating a sidebar of a user interface, said sidebar being configured for displaying a plurality of tiles, wherein each of the tiles represents a rich minimized application (RMA) and includes a sub-set of live-data provided by ~~the~~ an application and a sub-set of interactive application features provided by the application, said RMA further comprising a restore option;

 an insertion module for inserting at least one of the tiles into the sidebar wherein the sub-set of interactive features of the ~~application~~ RMA represented by the inserted tile are displayed therein when the application is represented by the inserted tile in the sidebar, wherein the sub-set of interactive application features are selected by the application and the sub-set of interactive application features are determined to be

useful by the application when included in the sidebar, and wherein the sub-set of interactive applications features do not include features related to sizing or re-sizing of the inserted tile, said inserting further comprising hiding a taskbar application button associated with the application; and

an available features selection module for selecting the sub-set of interactive application features for display in and accessibility through the inserted tile; and

user interface tools for allowing a user to command placement of a selected application into the sidebar, wherein the tile corresponding to the selected application persists in the sidebar when the user logs off the computer and wherein tile corresponding to the selected application remains in the sidebar upon the next user login to the computer.

Claim 26 (canceled):

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The system of claim 25, further comprising special controls for allowing removal of the application from the sidebar.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The system of claim 25, further comprising sidebar controls for hiding a taskbar application button associated with the application, an alt-tab entry associated with the application, and an application window associated with the application upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 30 (original): The system of claim 25, further comprising a fly-out menu for providing access to the selected one or more interactive application features displayed in the tile.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A system for providing access to a minimized email application through a user interface, the system comprising:

a processor associated with a computer;

an available feature selection module for allowing an email application to provide one or more selected interactive features of the email application including at least a sub-set of a full feature set upon minimization of the email application to a rich minimized application (RMA) wherein the selected interactive application features include access to new and unread email messages received by the email application while minimized; and

a tile insertion module for revealing a tile corresponding to the email application upon minimization RMA, said RMA comprising a restore option, and for displaying the selected interactive features in the tile in response to minimization of the email application, said displaying including hiding a taskbar application button associated with the application, wherein the selected interactive applications features do not include features related to sizing or re-sizing of the tile, wherein the tile insertion module reveals the tile in a sidebar configured to host the tile within the user interface, wherein the sidebar includes a plurality of tiles corresponding to a plurality of applications, wherein the tile corresponding to the minimized application persists in the sidebar when the user logs off the computer and wherein tile corresponding to the application remains in the sidebar upon the next user login to the computer.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (original): The system of claim 31, further comprising a restoration module for restoring the email application through the use of the tile.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 31, further comprising special controls for allowing removal of the email application from the sidebar.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The system of claim 31, further comprising sidebar controls for hiding ~~a taskbar application button~~, an alt-tab entry[[,]] and an application window upon receiving the minimize command.

Claim 36 (original): The system of claim 31, further comprising a fly-out menu for providing access to the one or more selected interactive features displayed in the tile.